

the Hawfinch, *Coccothraustes coccothraustes coccothraustes*, and the Common Swift, *Apus apus apus*, will not survive long, though it has to be admitted that, at the present time, the system is very popular, while my views are considered to be old-fashioned." Through his method of treating all named forms as 'species,' even when proposed by the original describer as only subspecies, it is impossible for anyone but an expert to know that a very large number of the binomials stand merely for races, with no indication whatever of their real relationships or relative importance; or that many already discarded forms are here given a new lease of life in the garb of full-fledged species. Thus to the novice or the amateur the 'Hand-List' is sadly misleading, and the expert, outside of the groups of which he has critical knowledge, is put to the trouble of looking up the real status of many alleged species in order to know their true status and affinities.

It is for these three reasons that the 'Hand-List' is out of touch with modern ornithology, and lacks a large part of the authoritativeness such a work should possess. Yet it is a convenience of immense value to have the described forms of birds catalogued in due form, with references to works wherein they are fully described, and where figures of them may be found in case such exist; and for this reason the 'Hand-List' will doubtless be adopted in most ornithological museums as a basis of arrangement, it serving so well as a directory for the location of material.

The system of classification followed is that proposed by the author in 1891, of which he said eight years later (in Vol. I of the 'Hand-List'): "I have seen no reason to modify the conclusions there recorded in any material degree." In the fifth volume, however, he says: "In any future edition of the 'Hand-List' I should divide the Class Aves into the two Sub-Classes *Palaeognathæ* and *Neognathæ*, since I consider this arrangement, proposed by Mr. Pycraft, more natural than the old division into *Ratitæ* and *Carinatae*." Beyond this, apparently, he considers his system still satisfactory.

In reviewing Dr. Sharpe's invaluable 'Hand-List' from what appears to be the generally approved modern viewpoint we are not disposed to belittle the magnitude and usefulness of this great work, for which ornithologists the world over cannot be too grateful.—J. A. A.

**Stone's 'The Birds of New Jersey.'**<sup>1</sup>—In response to the wide popular interest in birds, and in promotion of this interest, manuals of birds have been issued by the authority or under the auspices of several State governments, or through individual effort, till at present a considerable number of excellent local handbooks of ornithology are available for those who desire to become acquainted with the birds of their immediate region. The latest of these to call for notice is Mr. Stone's 'The Birds of New Jersey,' recently

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<sup>1</sup> The Birds of New Jersey. By Witmer Stone, Curator Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Annual Report of the New Jersey State Museum for 1908 (1909), pp. 11-347, 409-419, pl. 1-84.

issued in the annual report of the New Jersey State Museum for 1908, of which it forms the chief part of a volume of nearly four hundred and fifty pages. These reports are distributed free to "all of the New Jersey public libraries, school libraries, colleges, museums, historical societies, the State officials and those interested in natural history," and thus become available to a large number of the citizens of the State. The report for 1907 contained a similar handbook of the mammals of New Jersey, prepared also by Mr. Stone, and the reptiles and fishes, and some other classes of New Jersey animals, have been treated by other competent authorities.

The introductory part of the work here under notice deals with the destruction and protection of birds, their distribution and migration in New Jersey, and includes also a key for the identification of the higher groups. The species are then treated in systematic sequence, under the names adopted for them in the forthcoming new edition of the A. O. U. Check-List, and the work concludes with a bibliography of New Jersey ornithology, a glossary of technical terms, and an index (pp. 409-419). There are also keys to the genera of Passerine birds, and keys to the species of all the larger families.

Concise descriptions are given of the species, including the plumage of both adults and young, and of the nest and eggs, all in small type, followed by a statement of the status of the species as a bird of New Jersey, with dates of migration, character of its haunts, more or less biographical detail, and reference to its economic relations, when required. In the case of rare birds, or species of accidental occurrence, the records are cited, with the authorities therefor given in footnotes. The work is thus thoroughly up to date and authoritative, as would be expected from its authorship. The introduction gives excellent advice in the matter of bird protection, to aspirants for ornithological knowledge, and especially to the ambitious young egg-collector. The 84 plates with which the work is illustrated are half-tones, in small part base on specimens in the New Jersey State Museum, but largely (about one-half) from Wilson, and others from Audubon and the leaflets of the National Association of Audubon Societies. About one hundred species are illustrated, and the figures given should greatly aid beginners in their bird studies. All in all the work<sup>1</sup> should prove of

<sup>1</sup> The number of species included as birds of New Jersey appears to be nowhere stated, the numeration being that of the A. O. U. Check-List, and is thus not consecutive.

In this connection a few words may be added on the desirability of numbering the species in faunal lists. To most persons the number of species given in a list is a fact of some interest, and one a careful reviewer or bibliographer feels called upon to state as an indication of its scope and interest. If the species are numbered in sequence this item of information is available at a glance; if they are not they must be counted, which, in the case of a long list, is a burdensome task.

It also happens, as in the present case, that the species of a list or a faunal handbook are numbered, but only with the numbers of the A. O. U. Check-List, which, being non-consecutive, seem to have no practical utility; in other cases consecutive numbers are given in addition to the Check-List numbers, and are a source of convenience and information to many of the users of such lists or works.

great usefulness to those who desire an acquaintance with the bird life of New Jersey.— J. A. A.

**G. M. Allen's List of the Birds of New England.**<sup>1</sup>— Volume VII of the 'Occasional Papers' of the Boston Society of Natural History, entitled 'Fauna of New England,' will contain a Catalogue of the animals of New England, of which the present part is devoted to a 'List of the Aves.' These lists, it is stated, are considered by the Committee having the matter in charge to be "a necessary preliminary to a series of comprehensive, illustrated monographs, the publication of which it is hoped the Society will at some later time take upon itself." The preliminary lists are to include: "(1) the accepted name (scientific and vernacular); (2) reference to the original description, with record of locality; (3) reference to an authentic description and illustration; (4) habitat and occurrence."

The present list of birds is constructed on these lines, the references being restricted to the place of original description and to some later work in which, respectively, the species and its eggs have been figured. To this is added the manner of occurrence of the species in each of the New England States, usually condensed into a general statement of one to three lines for each State, without citations of authority, even in the case of species of rare or casual occurrence. Nor is there a bibliography. The nomenclature is that of the A. O. U. Check-List, including the changes of the 14th Supplement published July, 1908.

The list includes 402 species and subspecies, with a supplemental list of 57 'Species Introduced or Erroneously Accredited' to New England. This list includes a considerable number of species, mostly game birds, introduced from the West or from the Old World, with a summary of the results of such introductions, from which it appears that the greater part have been unsuccessful. The 'List of the Aves' is thus a convenient and useful catalogue of the birds of New England, without adding greatly to previously existing knowledge of the subject. The work has been compiled with evident care and accuracy and is thus an entirely trustworthy and up-to-date record. The vernacular names include those of local use as well as the standard Check-List vernacular name. A tabular, separately paged Check-List of 10 pages accompanies the 'List,' in which is shown the distribution of the species by States, and also whether or not they are represented in the Society's collection.— J. A. A.

**Osgood's 'Biological Investigations in Alaska and Yukon Territory.'**<sup>2</sup>— During 1903 Mr. Osgood's work was done "along the middle Yukon River

<sup>1</sup> Occasional Papers of the Boston Society of Natural History, Vol. VII. Fauna of New England. 11. List of the Aves. By Glover M. Allen. Boston: Printed for the Society from the Gurdon Saltonstall Fund. June, 1909. 8vo, pp. 1-230.

<sup>2</sup> Biological Investigations in Alaska and Yukon Territory. I, East Central Alaska. II, The Ogilvie Range, Yukon. III, The Macmillan River, Yukon. By Wilfred H. Osgood, Assistant, Biological Survey. Prepared under the direction of Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Chief of Bureau of Biological Survey. North American Fauna, No. 30, October 7, 1909. Pp. 96, pls. i-vi, and 2 text figures (maps).